

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE LONGFELLOW BRIDGE

NEW DATE

A Public Information Meeting will be held to discuss the Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation Project. This meeting was previously scheduled for October 29, but rescheduled due to an unforeseen conflict.

WHERE: Shriners Hospitals for Children, Auditorium
51 Blossom Street
Boston, MA 02114

WHEN: Thursday, **November 5**, 2009
6:00 to 8:00 PM in Shriners Hospital Auditorium

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide a project update and present details of the **Bridge Preservation Contract**, which will be advertised in November 2009. There are three elements to this early preservation work: (1) pilot work on the granite masonry and piers, beginning with pier 1 near the median; (2) sandblasting and cleaning the steel ribs, both to clean and prepare them for later work and to assess the need for any major repairs; and (3) relocation of utilities beneath the bridge to prepare for Phase 1 of the project. The preservation contract is a smaller part of the larger Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation Project. The public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the preservation phase of work for the rehabilitation of the Longfellow Bridge over the Charles River.

PROPOSAL: The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are jointly undertaking a project for the rehabilitation of the Longfellow Bridge across the Charles River between Boston and Cambridge. The main goals of the project are to repair deteriorating parts of the structure and to make improvements to the ramps connecting the bridge to Main Street and Cambridge Street.

The objective of the proposed rehabilitation is to address the structural deficiencies and upgrade the structural capacity of the bridge, where appropriate. Approach walls will be modified to allow for the sidewalk approaches to meet ADA standards. The proposed rehabilitation will respect the documented historic status of this landmark structure, and maintain as much of the original elements as possible.

The proposed work includes preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the NEPA process. An Environmental Notification Form was filed on March 16, 2009 and the Secretary's Certificate received on May 15, 2009 to comply with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and its associated regulations (301 CMR 11.00). The project also includes the preparation of a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation in accordance with 4(f) evaluation criteria. Wetland resource areas will be delineated in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131 § 40). Documentation has been prepared to support a Section 106 review process for the project.

The Shriners Hospital facility is accessible to all in compliance with the ADA / Title II. However, persons in need of ADA / Title II accommodations should contact Juan Flores by phone VOICE (617) 973-7281, TDDY (617) 973-7306 or email juan.flores@mhd.state.ma.us. Requests must be made at least 10 days prior to the date of the public meeting.

In case of inclement weather, meeting cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHighway website <http://www.mass.gov/mhd>.

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER

FRANK A. TRAMONTOZZI, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

Boston, Massachusetts